Abstract of the Disclosure

A method of improving the operating efficiency of a fuel cell in a portable device such as a laptop or tablet PC. The efficiency is improved by using the heat produced by the CPU or other components in the PC to heat the liquid methanol for use in the anode part of the fuel cell. Liquid methanol can be heated when it is conveyed from a replenishing unit to the fuel cell via a conduit. The conduit can be embedded in a heat exchanger placed in the proximity of a CPU heat-sink. Alternatively, the conduit is placed near the heat-sink for heating the liquid methanol therein by radiation and convection. Additionally, a fan is used to direct the hot air around the heat sink to heat the liquid methanol in the conduit and to provide heated air to the cathode part of the fuel cell.